



MEMO

TO: Prevention Partnership Providers and
Local Public Health Units

FROM: Tatia Hardy
Vaccines for Children/AFIX Coordinator

RE: VFC Eligibility Screening and Documentation

DATE: April 18, 2012

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program is a federal entitlement program which provides vaccines for children ages 18 and younger who are either American Indian, Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, or underinsured. The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) also supplies vaccines for other programs using federal 317 and state funding. Please see the NDDoH Vaccine Coverage Table at:

www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Documents/Providers/Forms/VaccineCoverage102011.pdf for more information.

It is imperative for providers to be in compliance with VFC Program and other publicly-funded vaccine requirements. The 2012 Prevention Partnership Provider Enrollment agreement states that providers will **document: 1) demographic information, 2) VFC-eligibility, and 3) immunization information on a Vaccine Administration Record (VAR) or Patient Eligibility Screening Form and in the North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS).**

Screening for VFC eligibility must be done at every immunization visit to appropriately determine whether VFC or privately-purchased vaccine should be administered. Patients, parents/guardians or nursing staff may complete the VFC eligibility questions. The NDDoH VAR is attached and has a section for VFC screening to be completed. Providers may opt to use a different VAR, but must incorporate VFC eligibility into their documentation. The VFC Patient Eligibility Screening Form is also attached and can be used to document VFC eligibility. These should be kept in the patient's permanent medical record.

Some electronic medical record (EMR) programs are not capable of capturing VFC eligibility information. Facilities that are utilizing EMRs must ensure that VFC eligibility screening is being conducted and documented. This documentation is in addition to the information that is entered into the NDIIS.

Data entry staff should be educated about the importance of correctly entering VFC eligibility information into the NDIIS. The NDDoH will follow up with providers whose NDIIS VFC eligibility data looks concerning or appears incorrect.

The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act requires additional vaccine administration documentation. These requirements are outlined on page 15, appendix D of the Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine Preventable Diseases (Pink Book), which can be found at:

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/D/vacc_admin.pdf.

Please feel free to contact the NDDoH Immunization Program with any questions or concerns at 701.328.3386 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.